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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#21
Range
5/7/2003
MAIL ROOM

In re application of: :
David COATES et al. : Group Art Unit: 2871
Serial No.: 09/484,259 : Examiner: Chowdhury, T.R.
Filed: January 18, 2000 :

For: HOMEOTROPICALLY ALIGNED LIQUID CRYSTAL LAYER AND
PROCESS FOR THE HOMEOTROPIC ALIGNMENT OF LIQUID
CRYSTALS ON PLASTIC SUBSTRATES

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to Requirement of Restriction dated March 26, 2003, Applicants elect the subject matter of "species II", a liquid crystal film formed on an alignment film from mesogenic compounds (claims 37 and 38). This election is made with traverse. Support for species obtained from mesogenic compounds is found on page 6, lines 12-36 and page 7, lines 1-27. Support is also found in the examples of the application.

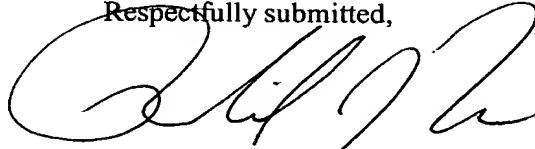
All pending claims except claims 15 and 16 (directed to an alignment layer) are generic to the elected subject matter. This includes claims 11-36, 39 and 40 said to correspond to "Species I". Forming the liquid crystal layer on an aligning layer is an element of independent claims 1, 20 and 30, such that the subject matter of Species I is encompassed by all pending claims (except claims 15 and 16), including claims 37 and 38 said to correspond to subject matter of Species II. Since substantially all claims link the subject matter of Species I and II, Applicants submit this Requirement to Restrict the application should be withdrawn.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Services as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231 on: April 28, 2003
Name: JACQUE A. SICKLER
Signature: Jacqueline A. Sickler
Date: 4-28-03

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In the alternative, once allowable subject matter has been identified which corresponds to Species II, Applicants submit that the examination should be extended to the subject matter corresponding to species I.

Respectfully submitted,



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